

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Deborah Richer

v.

Civil No. 21-cv-666-JL

Taco Bell Corp., et al.

ORDER AFTER PRELIMINARY
PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

The Preliminary Pretrial Conference was held via video-conference on **September 14, 2021**.

Defendant Taco Bell Corp. is dismissed from this action by agreement of the parties.

The case caption will be amended to reflect this.

The Discovery Plan (document no. 5) is approved as submitted, to the extent reflected or modified below:

- Close of discovery¹ – **April 19, 2022**
- Expert challenges – **June 6, 2022**
- Summary judgment deadline² – **June 6, 2022**

¹The parties are advised that the court considers the deadline for the completion of discovery to be a deadline by which discovery is to be completed—not a deadline by which discovery is to be served. Propounding parties shall ensure that enough time remains in the discovery period for the recipient to provide its responses by that deadline. Where Federal Rule 33(b)(2), 34(b)(2), or 36(a)(3) would call for a response after the deadline, the recipient need not provide a response.

²The parties may move for summary judgment on any issue at any time prior to this deadline. They are advised, however, that any motions for summary judgment that are directed at discrete issues and filed well before the close of discovery are unlikely to receive expeditious treatment.

- Mid-Litigation Discovery Status Conference – **April 4, 2022 at 10:00 am**
- Joint Status Report – **March 31, 2022**
- Jury trial – **November 1, 2022**

Mid-Litigation Status Conference. The court will hold a mid-litigation status conference 14 days before the close of discovery or the summary judgment deadline, whichever falls first. Counsel shall be prepared to discuss the status of discovery, upcoming dispositive motions (or other significant motions such as those seeking the exclusion of expert testimony), settlement prospects, and any other issues the parties' counsel or the court wish to address. Counsel may, but are not required, to jointly file a status report summarizing those issues (and any other appropriate topics) no later than 48 hours before the conference.


Summary Judgment. The parties and counsel are advised that compliance with Rule 56(e) and Local Rule 7.2(b), regarding evidentiary support for factual assertions, and specification and delineation of material issues of disputed fact, will be required.

Oral argument on dispositive motions. Counsel and the parties should anticipate that oral argument will be held on all dispositive motions. Any party preferring that such a motion be decided on the written filings alone should so notify the clerk.

Discovery disputes. Discovery disputes will be handled by the undersigned judge, as opposed to the Magistrate Judge, in the normal course. No motion to compel is necessary. The party or counsel seeking discovery-related relief should confer with adverse counsel to choose mutually available dates, and then contact the Deputy Clerk to schedule a conference call with the court. The court will inform counsel and parties what written materials, if any, should be submitted in advance of the conference call.

Customary motions to compel discovery, while disfavored by the undersigned judge, are nonetheless permissible. If counsel prefer traditional discovery litigation to the conference call procedure set forth above, any such motion to compel should expressly request, in the title of the motion, a referral to the United States Magistrate Judge. Such referral requests will normally be granted. If the Magistrate Judge is recused, alternate arrangements will be made.

SO ORDERED.



Joseph N. Laplante
United States District Judge

Dated: October 13, 2021

cc: Arthur G. Gatzoulis, Esq.
Joseph Gardner Mattson, Esq.